

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 07110 210944Z

64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /027 W
----- 128621

R 210801Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5265

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 7110

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, RP, US
SUBJECT: FILTRONIA CASE

REF: MANILA 4955, MANILA 4127

1. IN CONVERSATION MAY 20, AMBASSADOR ASKED FINANCE SECRETARY VIRATA ABOUT STATUS OF FILTRONA MATTER. AMBASSADOR REMINDED VIRATA HE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS BEFORE LEAVING FOR WASHINGTON (MANILA 4127) AND THAT PRESIDENT HAD RELATED RELIEF FOR FILTRONA TO CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITY FOR MANUFACTURE OF ACETATE TOW. HOWEVER, ON BASIS OF ANALYSIS BY FILTRONA PRESIDENT HILTON, THIS DID NOT APPEAR PRACTICAL, AND IT IS NECESSARY TO CONSIDER FILTRONA PROBLEM ON ITS OWN MERITS. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT CONSIDERABLE TIME HAD PASSED SINCE VIRATA HAD SAID HE WOULD TAKE STEPS TO SECURE AMENDMENT OF P.D. 750 AND NOTED DISCRIMINATORY FEATURE THIS DECREE. VIRATA READILY AGREED THAT IT IS DISCRIMINATORY AND NOTED THAT HE HAD SENT DRAFT AMENDATORY DECREE TO PRESIDENT MARCOS SOME TIME AGO. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT BRITISH INTERESTS ARE ALSO INVOLVED TO WHICH VIRATA RESPONDED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED LETTER FROM UK CHARGE IN RESPONSE TO LETTER VIRATA SENT BRITISH AMBASSADOR LAST DECEMBER ASSURING HIM P.D. 750 WOULD SOON BE AMENDED. VIRATA SAID A LETTER OF INQUIRY FROM US NOW APPEARED TO BE IN ORDER AND INDICATED THAT, ARMED WITH THESE TWO LETTERS, HE WOULD BE IN A POSITION AGAIN TO APPROACH MALACANANG.

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AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD SEND SUCH A LETTER TO VIRATA

PROMPTLY.

2. COMMENT: VIRATA CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS IMPLICATIONS OF BLANTANT SELF-INTEREST REPRESENTED BY DISCRIMINATORY ASPECT OF P.D. 750 AND HAS BEEN SINCERE IN SEEKING TO RECTIFY IT. HE HAS NOT, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, LEANED TOO HARD ON MALACANANG, GIVEN THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT, BUT NOW APPEARS WILLING TO MAKE ANOTHER EFFORT. WE WILL BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED IF IT IS SUCCESSFUL.

SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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